



Testimony in support of SB 366

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Moore, Representative Arconti, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass) I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 366. I am Chairman of ConnFACT and a Certified Holistic Health Coach. ConnFACT educates the citizens of Connecticut on issues of chemical trespass and advocates for laws that will help protect the people of CT from chemicals that they are unknowingly exposed to on a regular basis.

ConnFACT strongly supports extending the ban on pesticides to include high schools in our state as we receive regular feedback from families in Connecticut who are concerned about the exposure their children have to toxic pesticides on school grounds.

When areas intended for children and teen's recreational activities have been sprayed with pesticides, the residues remain on the grass, trees and soil. The issue of toxicity may not necessarily be acute, but certainly there is chronic toxicity which, we must pay attention to as we are seeing increasing rates of disease including cancer in young children and young adults.

While it is easy to believe these pesticides are EPA-approved and therefore safe, nothing could be further from the truth. These chemicals are designed "to kill" and contain extremely toxic ingredients, both active and inert. Like so many other situations, the chemical companies who profit from these pesticides are also responsible for the safety testing. There is a long history of pesticides causing serious harm to humans. * These chemicals are linked to cancer, endocrine disruption and other serious health effects. They certainly do not belong on the grounds where children and teens are playing.

It is also important to note that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is not the solution as there is virtually no oversight with this method. Unless those overseeing IPM are authentic supporters of minimal pesticide use, this option is pointless. The solution is organic, less toxic methods, which offers the safest protection for our children & teens, our pets, and our own health, while protecting the environment.

If these pesticides continue to be used on high school grounds, it only benefits the pesticide companies; certainly not our children.

Thank you for supporting Connecticut's children, including high school students, by moving this bill forward and pursuing its passage into law. (References follow)

* Poison Spring by E.G. Vallianatos (The author worked as a scientist at the EPA for 25 years mostly in the pesticide area. This book describes how toxic pesticides have become so widespread in our country and how Americans have a false sense of their safety. He also describes many situations where people have been exposed to EPA-approved pesticides and suffered serious health consequences, both acute and chronic.)

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/03/06/pesticides-birth-defects-and-brain-damage-in-children/print>

Quotes from the above link: (Article was written by JANETTE SHERMAN, MD)

“There is not a teacher who can teach brain-damaged children to read and do math, which raises the larger question being proposed: are children’s lack of learning due to poor teachers, or to subtle brain damage? If children are being damaged to various degrees,how much is attributable to exposure to pesticides such as Dursban/ Lorsban? If we blame poor teaching, and teachers’ unions, but don’t stop the use of brain-damaging pesticides, where does that leave our U.S. society as a source of creativity and intellect in this world?”

“Although the neurotoxicity of pesticides has been known for decades, recently, several national magazines, have named the pesticide, chlorpyrifos (Dursban/ Lorsban), as an agent causing loss of intelligence, as well as birth defects and structural brain damage.”

“Dr. James Hamblin’s article in March 2014 issue of *The Atlantic*, titled “The Toxins that Threaten Our Brains.” listed 12 commonly used chemicals, including chlorpyrifos, which is marketed as Dursban and Lorsban.”

“That same month, *The Nation* published articles by Susan Freinkel “Poisoned Politics” and Lee Fang “Warning Signs” who reported adverse effects from exposure to Dursban and Lorsban.”

“Dr. Hamblin’s article generously cites Drs. Philip Landrigan of Mt. Sinai in New York City and Philippe Grandjean of Harvard that a ‘silent pandemic’ of toxins has been damaging the brains of unborn children.”

<http://press.endocrine.org/doi/pdf/10.1210/jc.2014-4324>

“The primary finding of this manuscript is that there is a substantial probability of very high disease costs across the life span associated with EDC (endocrine disrupting chemicals) exposure in the EU. For some perspective, the median €157 billion cost/y we identified is approximately one sixth the €798 billion European cost of brain disorders in 2010 (60) and 1.23% of GDP.

These costs will accrue annually insofar as exposures that are harmful continue unabated. Thus, regulatory action to limit exposure to the most widely prevalent and potentially hazardous EDCs is likely to produce substantial economic benefits. These economic benefits should inform decision-making on measures to protect public health.”

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=1fa251654c&view=att&th=14c103c3c9c00e6e&attid=0.1&disp=inline&safe=1&zw>

“(Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, (NHL) and Occupational Exposure to Agricultural Pesticide Chemical Groups and Active Ingredients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis) We systematically reviewed more than 25 years’ worth of epidemiologic literature on the relationship between pesticide chemical groups and active ingredients with NHL. This review indicated positive associations between NHL and carbamate insecticides, OP insecticides, the phenoxy herbicide MCPA, and lindane. Few papers reported associations with subtypes of NHL; however, based on the few that did, there were strong associations between certain chemicals and B cell lymphomas. Our results show that there is consistent evidence that pesticide exposures experienced in occupational agricultural settings may be important determinants of NHL. This review also revealed clear research needs, including further investigation of some already studied pesticide active ingredients, of additional pesticides that have not yet been investigated in epidemiologic analyses, of the strength of association of pesticide exposures with subtypes of NHL, and of the relationship between NHL and pesticides in middle- and low- income areas.”

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(The references, excluding the book, Poison Spring, were compiled by ConnFACT’s education director Beth Beisel, RD. LLC. Any questions regarding references should be addressed to her at 860-798-2616.)